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CABLE & DEADPOOL
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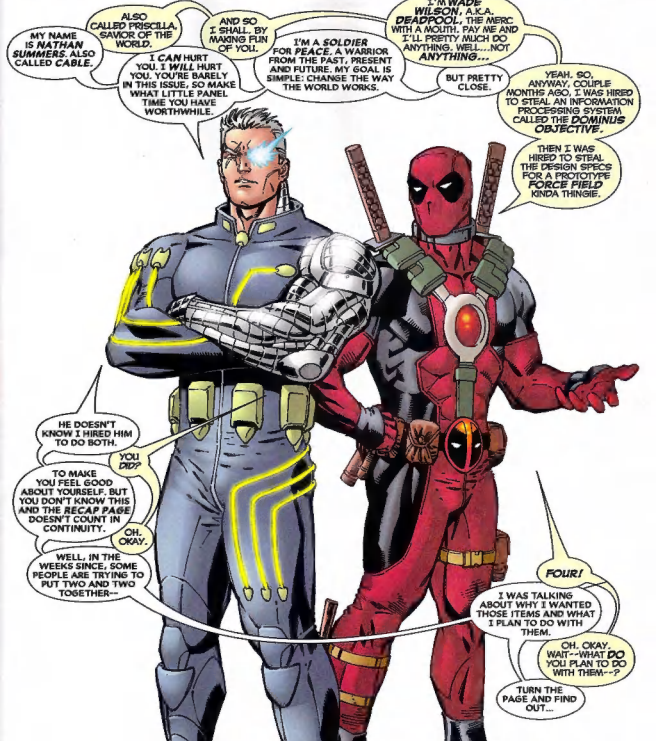
LIVING LEGENDS


MY NAME IS NATHAN SUMMERS. ALSO CALLED CABLE.
ALSO CALLED PRISCILLA, SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.
I CAN HURT YOU. I WILL HURT YOU. YOU'RE BARELY IN THIS ISSUE, SO MAKE WHAT LITTLE PANEL TIME YOU HAVE WORTHWHILE
AND SO I SHALL BY MAKING FUN OF YOU.
I'M A SOLDIER FOR PEACE. A WARRIOR FROM THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE. MY GOAL IS SIMPLE: CHANGE THE WAY THE WORLD WORKS.
I'M WADE WILSON, A.K.A. DEADPOOL. THE MERC WITH A MOUTH. PAY ME AND I'LL PRETTY MUCH DO ANYTHING. WELL....NOT ANYTHING...
BUT PRETTY CLOSE.
YEAH. SO, ANYWAY, COUPLE MONTHS AGO, I WAS HIRED TO STEAL AN INFORMATION PROCESSING SYSTEM CALLED THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE.
THEN I WAS HIRED TO STEAL THE DESIGN SPECS FOR A PROTOTYPE FORCE FIELD KINDA THINGIE.
HE DOESN'T KNOW I HIRED HIM TO DO BOTH.
YOU DID?
TO MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD ABOUT YOURSELF. BUT YOU DON'T KNOW THIS AND THE RECAP PAGE DOESN'T COUNT IN CONTINUITY.
OH. OKAY.
WELL, IN THE WEEKS SINCE, SOME PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER--
FOUR!
I WAS TALKING ABOUT WHY I WANTED THOSE ITEMS AND WHAT I PLAN TO DO WITH THEM.
OH. OKAY. WAIT--WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH THEM--?
TURN THE PAGE AND FIND OUT...

FABIAN NICIEZA — WRITER | LAN MEDINA — PENCILER | ED TADEO — INKER | GOTHAM — COLORIST | VC'S CORY PETIT — LETTERS

CABLE CREATED BY ROB LIEFELD AND LOUISE SIMONSON

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DEADPOOL CREATED BY ROB LIEFELD AND FABIAN NICIEZA

COVER BY PATRICK ZIRCHER — PENCILER; UDON'S M3TH — INKER; ROB SCHWAGER — COLORIST

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THIS INFORMATION IS THE RESULT OF A LOT OF DRYWORK ON CABLE'S ACTIVITIES OVER THE LAST TWO MONTHS. STOLEN FROM S.H.I.E.L.D. FILES, SINCE I'M ON THE OUTS WITH THEM RIGHT NOW.
OBVIOUSLY, HE'S BEEN A BUSY BOY, WHICH MAKES A LOT OF PEOPLE VERY NERVOUS.
HE WAS SPOTTED MEETING WITH P. NORBERT EBERSOL, THE FIXER. MONEY WAS EXCHANGED. CABLE WALKED AWAY WITH A HANDFUL OF CIRCUITRY.
HE MET WITH THE ESCAPED FELON, THE WIZARD, AND DISCUSSED—LET ME SEE WHAT THE EGGHEADS SAID..."THE MANIPULATION OF GRAVIMETRIC SHIELDS."
HE HAD LUNCH WITH TONY STARK IN MANHATTAN. CABLE AGREED TO GIVE STARK THE SPECS FOR A "FISSION WASTE PROCESSOR." GIVE, NOT SELL.
HIM AN' HIS CHIEF OF STAFF, IRENE MERRYWEATHER, SPENT THREE DAYS IN CHINA HAMMERIN' OUT A "REFUGEE RELOCATION PROGRAM."
MEANS NATE'S BASICALLY WILLIN' TO TAKE ANY OF CHINA'S "UNDESIRABLES."
TO FURY
S.H.I.E.L.D.
FURY KEEPS TALKING. THERE'S A LOT TO TALK ABOUT.
CABLE HAS BEEN VERY BUSY.
THE QUESTION IS LESS A MATTER OF WHAT, BUT RATHER WHY?
WHY IS CABLE... THE WAY CABLE IS?

SO MEETING ME HERE--EVEN IN *HOLOGRAPHIC FORM*--MUST MEAN CABLE DID SOMETHING PRETTY DRASTIC.
WELL, SINCE STEALIN' THE "CONE OF SILENCE" PROTOTYPE *PRISON FORCE FIELD*, ACTUALLY...JUST WHAT I SHOWED YOU BEFORE.
THEN WHY ARE WE HERE?
OH. THAT ISN'T ENOUGH?
YOU *AVENGERS* ARE SO BUSY FIGHTIN' NINJAS YOU DON'T HAVE TIME FOR STOPPIN' A WOULD-BE WORLD CONQUEROR BEFORE HE STARTS CONQUERIN'?
CUTE.
CUTE WON'T WORK BETWEEN US RIGHT NOW, *NICK*.
YEAH, OKAY, FINE--HERE'S THE DEAL SIMPLE: YOU KNOW S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS A *CANCER* UP ITS BUTT. WANNA HEAR THE THREE CONTINGENCY PLANS THEY DREW UP TO STOP CABLE BEFORE HE ESCALATES HIS BIG PLAN TO "SAVE THE WORLD?"
OPTION ONE: NUKE CABLE.
OPTION TWO: NUKE PROVIDENCE.
OPTION THREE: NUKE THE WORLD.
THAT'S RATHER EXTREME.
EXTREME MEASURES TO HANDLE AN EXTREME THREAT.
AND I'M EXPECTED TO...?
CONFIRM OR REFUTE THEIR SUSPICIONS ONCE AND FOR ALL.
OR...?
S.H.I.E.L.D. WILL.

TWO DAYS LATER, I'M ON CABLE'S SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND HAVEN, PROVIDENCE.
HAD TO COVER MY TRACKS. FLEW TO AUSTRALIA. COACH. BOOKED PASSAGE ON A CIVILIAN TRANSPORT SHIP.
AND CAPTAIN AMERICA GETS TO ENJOY THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE.
"ROGER STEVENS" GOES THROUGH THE SAME ACCLIMATION PROCESS AS ALL OTHER NEW ARRIVALS.
A WEEK OF TOURS, PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS AND SKILLS SCREENINGS.
I LEARN WHAT A FISSION WASTE PROCESSING PLANT DOES. AND IT'S A GOOD THING.
AND I GET ASSIGNED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION.
I HAVEN'T PAINTED PUBLIC MURALS SINCE BEFORE WORLD WAR II.

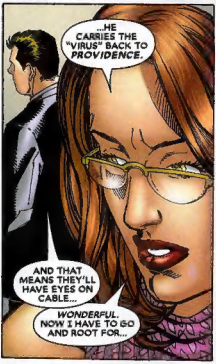
I HAVEN'T EATEN IN COMMUNITY MESS HALLS THIS CROWDED SINCE BASIC TRAINING.
I FIND MYSELF SMILING. A LOT. ALL AROUND, THERE IS AN...ELECTRICITY IN THE AIR. A FEELING OF...POSITIVE ENERGY.
THIS PLACE IS MAKING ME HOLISTIC.
PEOPLE TALK. NOT JUST ABOUT LIFE ON PROVIDENCE. ABOUT LIFE AS IT WAS... AND AS THEY HOPE IT WILL BE.
IT FEELS LIKE THE "SMALL TOWN AMERICA" I NEVER REALLY WAS A PART OF.
NIGHTS ARE SPENT IN COMMUNAL ACTIVITIES, IF WE WANT. I SPENT TWO HOURS PLAYING BINGO. ABSURD.
THE OUTDOOR MOVIE THEATRE IS VERY POPULAR. THERE'S A CHAPLIN NIGHT, FOLLOWED BY "THE BROOKS BROTHERS," MEL AND JAMES. NO ROB SCHNEIDER NIGHT.
AND MY SMILES...TURN TO LAUGHTER. PURE, RELAXED...LAUGHTER.
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME...I LAUGHED?

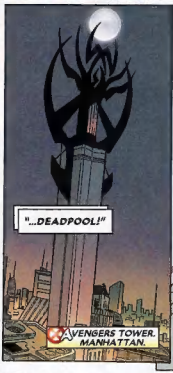
I TAKE THE ASSIGNMENTS THAT WILL GET ME AS CLOSE TO ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES AS I CAN.
JOHANN KRIEK IS HEAD OF SECURITY. I MET HIM BRIEFLY, YEARS AGO, WHEN HE WAS INTERPOL, A VERY GOOD MAN.
THE LARGER MAN IS PRESTER JOHN, A TIME-TOSSED FANATIC...WELL, APPARENTLY FORMER FANATIC...WHO OPERATES THE ISLAND'S REQUIRED MULTI-RELIGIOUS STUDIES.
ONCE A WEEK, THEY SUPERVISE ALL NEW CIVILIAN ARRIVALS AND SUPPLY TRANSACTIONS.
NOTHING COMES THROUGH THAT HASN'T BEEN CAREFULLY SCREENED BY TECHNOLOGY MORE ADVANCED, EVEN, THAN WHAT WE HAVE AT AVENGERS TOWER.
THOUGH HE'S TALKED ABOUT ALL THE TIME, CABLE ISN'T AN OVERT DAY-TO-DAY PRESENCE.
ACTUALLY, WHEN HE IS IN PUBLIC, HE SEEMS ALMOST...SHY--VERY HESITANT TO DRAW ATTENTION TO HIMSELF.
I'VE HAD DINNER WITH STALIN, STARED HITLER IN THE EYE. I KNOW MADNESS.
THIS IS NOT A MADMAN. HE NEVER EVEN LOOKS ANGRY.

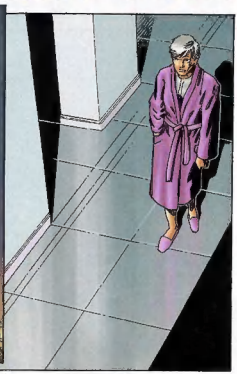
I'VE BEEN HERE TWO WEEKS AND A REAL PART OF ME...A *REAL* PART...
...THINKS ABOUT NEVER LEAVING.
HARD WORK. COMMUNITY. COMMON SOCIAL GOALS. TOLERANCE AMIDST DIVERSITY.
WHY COULDN'T *EVERYWHERE* BE LIKE *THIS*...?
IT'S NOT AS *HEAVY* AS I *REMEMBER*.
LIGHTS.
YOU SAW ME A FEW DAYS AGO.
I KNEW YOU WERE HERE *FOUR DAYS* BEFORE YOU EVEN DECIDED TO COME.
SO WHY DID YOU LET ME INFILTRATE YOUR ISLAND?
SHOULDN'T I BE ASKING WHY YOU *WANTED* TO INFILTRATE MY ISLAND?
I'D LIKE MY SHIELD BACK, PLEASE.
YOU KNOW WHAT I USED TO CALL THIS BEAUTY WHEN I WAS *YOUR* AGE? I USED TO CALL IT *MY* SHIELD!
SO YOU COULD UNDERSTAND WHY A *VERY* REAL PART OF ME WANTS TO SAY...

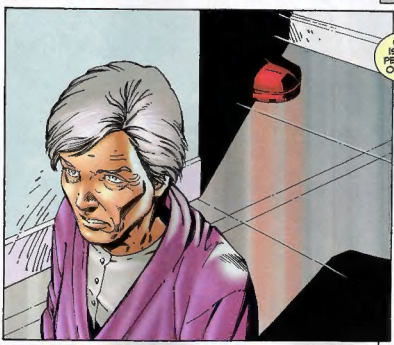
"... MAKE ME!"
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE WEATHER IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC IS BALMY.
THE COMMISSION ON SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITIES HAS INFECTED EVERY SUPERHUMAN BASE OF OPS YOU COULD IMAGINE.
YOUR BOY SCREWS UP, MISS MERRYWEATHER, HE GETS BIT. HE GETS BIT...
ALTHOUGH STORMS ARE ALWAYS A PROBLEM.


...HE CARRIES THE "VIRUS" BACK TO PROVIDENCE.
AND THAT MEANS THEY'LL HAVE EYES ON CABLE...
WONDERFUL. NOW I HAVE TO GO AND ROOT FOR...


"...DEADPOOL!"
AVENGERS TOWER. MANHATTAN.




OOOH. SHE IS AS UNTO A PETITE VERSION OF MY BEA...
SUCH CONFLICT. WOO THE BIDDY OF MY DREAMS...

"...OR GET NATE THE AMMUNITION HE WANTS..."
SO...MY SHIELD...
...IT ACTUALLY SURVIVES INTO THE *FUTURE*?
A FUTURE. YES. *MY* FUTURE.
HOLDING IT AGAIN...IT FEELS... INSPIRATIONAL.
I HAD TO *EARN* THAT. I STILL DO, EVERY DAY.
WE REALLY *DON'T* HAVE TO DO THIS.
OF COURSE WE DON'T. BUT I *WANT* TO.
IT WAS MEANT TO INSPIRE. I WAS *MADE* TO INSPIRE.

PARADISE.
HE'S BUILDING A PARADISE.
AND I'M PLAYING THE PART OF THE SERPENT?

NICE, CAPTAIN. USING THE SHIELD TO ALTER MY TRAJECTORY. AVOID CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.
YOU ARE... INCREDIBLE.
THEN CAN WE PLEASE PUT AN END TO THIS?
YOU'RE TWENTY YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME. FASTER. STRONGER. TRIPLE MY ENDURANCE.
BUT EVERY SINGLE DAY OF MY LIFE HAS BEEN SPENT ENGAGED IN ONE FORM OF COMBAT OR ANOTHER. SO--
--WOULD I HAVE [redacted] WALKED INTO A FIGHT WITH YOU...
...UNLESS I KNEW I COULD BEAT YOU...

...BEFORE WE EVEN STARTED!
HIS POWERS--? HE HAD LOST HIS POWERS--SPECTACULARLY, IN A BLAZE OF MESSIANIC GLORY DURING A FIGHT WITH THE ALIEN, SILVER SURFER.
AND NOW... HE--OF COURSE... THE QUESTION WAS LESS A MATTER OF WHAT, BUT WHY?
EVERYTHING NICK FURY SHOWED ME...EVERYTHING CABLE HAS [redacted] DOING FOR THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS--
--THE DOMINUS OBJECTIVE-- THE FORCE FIELD INTENDED TO ISOLATE PROVIDENCE--
--ALL OF IT HAS [redacted] D-- THE TECHNOLOGIES HARNESSED AND RECONFIGURED--
--ALL SO THAT [redacted] COULD RECREATE THE TELEPATHY AND TELEKINESIS HE LOST!
SO THAT HE COULD ONCE AGAIN [redacted] WHO IS.

HE'S SURROUNDED BY A GRAVIMETRIC SHEATH--THE CONE OF SILENCE MODIFIED FOR [redacted] USE.
THEN EXTENDED *OUTWARD* TO SIMULATE TELEKINESIS...
...AND VERY... POWERFUL...
CAPTAIN, I'M GOING TO LINK YOU TO THE *INFONET*--THE *ELECTRONIC DATASTREAM* WASHING OVER THIS PLANET--
--I'D LIKE YOU TO [redacted] A VERY PRIVATE PART OF THE DATASTREAM...

...THE BOOK OF MY LIFE!
IT DIGS INTO MY MIND LIKE TELEPATHY, BUT QUIET--LIKE I'M FEELING A BOOK.
THE SMELLS...SOUNDS--THE SIGHTS--I'M ON THE BATTLEFIELD AGAIN--
BUT THESE AREN'T MY MEMORIES--THEY'RE HIS.
AND THESE AREN'T SUPERHUMANS, THEY PRACTICALLY FIGHT LIKE PROFESSIONAL WRESTLERS--
--THIS IS THE SMELL OF HUMAN FLESH TORN OPEN, ENTRAILS EXPOSED, SCREAMS OF PAIN THAT MUST BE IGNORED FOR YOUR OWN SURVIVAL OR THAT OF THE MISSION--
--AND THEN I REALIZE I'M NOT A SPECTATOR HERE...
DAYSPRING--THEY'RE OUTFLANKING US!
I KNOW, TETHERBLOOD--LET THEM--IT OPENS UP AN OPPORTUNITY--

--TO TAKE THEM THROUGH THE MIDDLE!
HE LEADS, THEY FOLLOW AND I FEEL THEIR...THEIR FAITH.
I KNOW WHAT IT IS TO FOLLOW IN BATTLE... AND TO LEAD.
I'VE SEEN MEN STARE AT ME WITH... WORSHIP IN THEIR EYES (AS UNCOMFORTABLE AS IT IS TO ADMIT).
BUT THE WAY I FEEL IN CABLE'S SKIN...THE BURDEN HE CARRIED--THAT HE ACCEPTED IN A WAY I NEVER COULD--
--THE WEIGHT OF HOPE FOR...BILLIONS OF PEOPLE...
DAYSPRING...?
I'M FINE... I... WHAT WE CAME FOR...

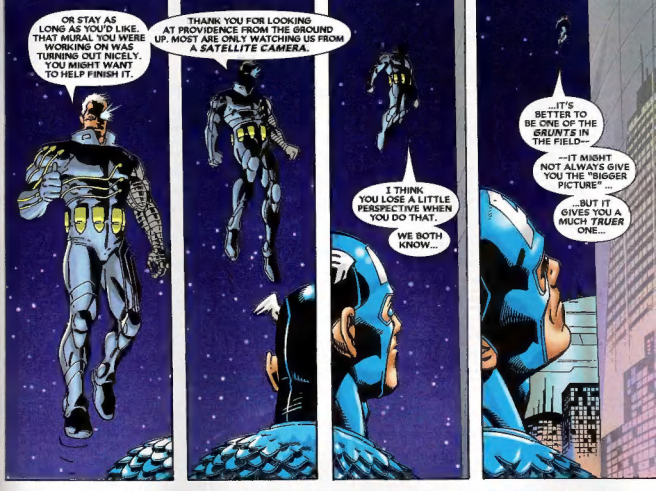
THEN A FUNNY THING HAPPENS--
IN MY MIND--IN OUR LINK--I STOP SEEING *MYSELF* IN CABLE'S PLACE...
AM I [redacted] *MANIPULATED?* SEEING HIM IN PLACE OF ME? AS "MORE IMPORTANT" THAN I AM?
OR...IS THIS...MY *OWN* DECISION...?
AND IF IT IS...
FOR LIBERTY AND JUSTICE!
FOR LIBERTY AND JUSTICE!
HE LEADS, THEY FOLLOW, ALL KNOWING...SO MANY OF THEM--SO MANY--ARE GOING TO *DIE*...

MEN FOUGHT--AND DIED--TO PROTECT MY SHIELD--?
TO DEFEND--AND UPHOLD--AN IDEAL.
ARE YOU OKAY?
NO.
YOU CARRIED IT FOR YEARS?
AND IT WAS TORN FROM MY ARM... WELL, ACTUALLY, MY ARM WAS TORN [redacted] MY BODY...LONG STORY...
AFTER WE LOST THE WAR, I CAME BACK IN TIME--ORIGINALLY TO KILL APOCALYPSE TO PREVENT MY FUTURE...
...BUT I LEARNED THAT TRICK NEVER WORKS.
SO MY MISSION BECAME QUITE A BIT HARDER--TO CREATE A BETTER TOMORROW BY CHANGING THE NOW.
FOLKS, I KNOW THIS [redacted] CAPTAIN AMERICA, BUT COULD WE HAVE SOME PRIVACY? THANK YOU.
CAPTAIN, YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, EVEN COUNTING YOUR DECADES SPENT IN [redacted] ANIMATION--
--YOUR LIFESPAN--YOUR TIME ON EARTH, SIGNIFICANT AS IT WAS--IS--OUTLASTING YOUR DEATH THE WAY IT WILL--

--IT'S STILL NOTHING BUT AN *EYEBLINK* IN COMPARISON TO WHAT I'VE SEEN. WHAT I HAVE LIVED THROUGH.
I'VE TRIED TO MAKE THIS CLEAR TO ALL OF YOU TIME AND AGAIN WITHOUT BEING TOO *ARROGANT* ABOUT IT, BUT...
--MY PERSPECTIVE *ALL* THE THINGS YOU HOLD DEAR: LIFE, LIBERTY, THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE--
--ARE AS ADVANCED FROM YOURS AS YOURS ARE FROM A *CHIMP*.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT BEING TOO ARROGANT ABOUT IT...
YOU FIGHT IN TERMS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW...YOU THINK IN TERMS OF HOW IT MIGHT AFFECT THINGS YEARS TO COME.
I THINK IN TERMS OF CENTURIES, OF *MILLENNIA*--PAST AND FUTURE.
I'M NOT TRYING TO BELITTLE YOU--HONESTLY. WHILE I HAD YOU LINKED TO THE *INFONET*, YOU *FELT* MY RESPECT FOR YOU.
I DID...
AND YOU UNDERSTAND ORDER AND DISCIPLINE, HONOR AND PRINCIPLE--BUT YOU'RE A *CAPTAIN*--
--AND I'VE BEEN A *FOUR-STAR GENERAL*, HEAD OF THE *JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF*, A *PRESIDENT* AND A *POPE* ALL ROLLED INTO ONE.

WHAT YOU WANT TO DO--WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING TO DO--PEOPLE WON'T ACCEPT THAT.
PEOPLE WHO CAN'T THINK IN TERMS OF MILLENNIA. PEOPLE WHO DEAL WITH THINGS DAY-TO-DAY.
I WILL GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO SEE... JUST LIKE I DID YOU...
WHAT DO YOU THINK I'M CONVINCED?
TELL ME, THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU GREW UP WANTING--WHAT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT HELD OUT TO ALL OF YOU AS HIS IDEAL.
NATHAN... I'M NOT A SOCIAL THEORIST OR A POLITICIAN...
NO... YOU'RE A SOLDIER.
EVERY GOOD LEADER NEEDS GOOD SOLDIERS.
THE AVENGERS, THE X-MEN--WE'LL HAVE TO STOP YOU AGAIN.
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE. YOU CAN'T HOPE TO DREAM LIKE I DO.
YOU DID. THEN YOU'D BE FORCED TO ACT ON THOSE DREAMS.
I'M NOT YOUR ENEMY. YOU KNOW THAT. ALL I WANT YOU TO DO IS TO THINK ABOUT THIS. THINK ABOUT WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO.
DON'T BE ONE OF THE ROMANS. DON'T BE PONTIUS PILATE. YOU OF ALL PEOPLE...YOU CAN DO MORE THAN THAT.

JUST SO YOU KNOW, A FEW WEEKS AGO, WHEN THE AVENGERS WERE AMBUSHED BY THOSE WOULD-BE HEROES, THE THUNDERBOLTS—
—THE COMMISSION ON SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITIES WAS NOT ONLY SENDING YOU A MESSAGE, THEY WERE ALSO DISTRACTING YOU.
THEY PLANTED SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT AVENGERS TOWER. I HAD AN OPERATIVE CONFIRM THEIR PRESENCE.
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FIND THEM—THEY DON'T EVEN EXIST IN MACROSCOPIC SPACE...
...BUT I CAN DEACTIVATE THEM ANYTIME YOU ASK.
ARE YOU BLACKMAILING ME—OR TRYING TO BRIBE ME?
WHICHEVER YOU'D PREFER.
YOU CAN LEAVE ANYTIME YOU'D LIKE.


OR STAY AS LONG AS YOU'D LIKE. THAT MURAL YOU WERE WORKING ON WAS TURNING OUT NICELY. YOU MIGHT WANT TO HELP FINISH IT.
THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AT PROVIDENCE FROM THE GROUND UP. MOST ARE ONLY WATCHING US FROM A SATELLITE CAMERA.
I THINK YOU LOSE A LITTLE PERSPECTIVE WHEN YOU DO THAT.
WE BOTH KNOW...
...IT'S BETTER TO BE ONE OF THE GRUNTS IN THE FIELD--
--IT MIGHT NOT ALWAYS GIVE YOU THE "BIGGER PICTURE" ...
...BUT IT GIVES YOU A MUCH TRUER ONE...

END
NEXT: APOCALYPSE REBORN?

DEAR DEADPOOL

When Nicole sent me the letters this month, she included a note that said, "Trying to include letters that are prescient and lead themselves to plugging upcoming things." I have no idea what "prescient" means, but if we let these B.A.D. Girls guest-star again, I'll surely be plugging some upcoming things…

Dear Deadpool,

I was just wondering if you and Cable were going to have anything to do with the big Marvel events. I just get the feeling that you and Cable are in your own little universe with no interaction with other titles. Here's to seeing you out there, making a difference. Because the way I see it is, the more Deadpool the better. And a little more Cable wouldn't hurt either.

Robert Jackson, Lansing, MI

Well, everyone at Marvel who doesn't hate me, hates Cable, so that pretty much covers that, doesn't it? Of course, as you can see from the last couple issues, we're guest-starring those moptop New Avengers characters to increase our sales, wrap up some loose ends from other corners of the isolated Fabey-verse and – what? Wait…? The next two issues we're doing a PREQUEL to a big X-Men story featuring the return of Apocalypse? And what else was that? There's a BIG, BIG, BIG story coming up called CIVIL WAR that will affect the entire Marvel Universe and we're doing a bunch of sales-and-hair-raising-issues that tie into that? Why, Robert, it appears your letter is almost… prescient.

Dear Deadpool,

What spurred me to write this letter was my breakfast. I had papaya this morning and as I was eating it I thought, "Golly…" (yeah, I actually said "golly…"–not out loud but in my head…) and I thought, "Papaya is a pretty cool word…Deadpool would like this word…" and then I thought, "Deadpool mango…and thought "I have to tell Deadpool about this!" so here it is. "Mango," "papaya," all yours. Maybe not as cool as "duct tape" or "chimichanga" or "spatula", but at least mango and papaya are all natural and when you slice them they do actually kind of bleed.

Mike, Texas

Mike, I do want to give you some kudos for those two excellent words. The best news is that two new Marvel characters named Mango and Papaya will be introduced into the Marvel Universe and they'll play a very important role in the upcoming Marvel CIVIL WAR limited series event coming soon from Marvel.[1]

Dear Deadpool,

Love the current series, man; it's what keeps me dragging my arse down to the comics shop twenty miles away on those cold Thursdays! Big props to Fabian and Patrick, you guys rule! As I always say, "MORE DEADPOOL CENTERFOLDS!"

Lewis-Paul Stuchbury, London, England

Nicole says now would be a good time for a "Subscription plug!!!" Apparently, you can FINALLY get Cable & Deadpool through Marvel's subscription department (www.marvel.com/subscribe), guaranteed crispy clean copies every month without a twenty mile trek! Unless your mail box is twenty miles away from your front porch, in which case, never mind.

PLEASE I CONSIDER, MYSELF A X-FAN THE KIND OF FAN NOT ONLY COLLECT X-TITLES BUT ANY TITLE I FOUND WITH A X-MEMBER, AND NOT JUST THAT I COLLECT X-MEN TITLES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES LIKE JAPAN, RUSSIA, CHINA ETC.

SO PLEASE PUBLISH THIS LETTER IN "CABLE E DEADPOOL" OR "UNCANNY X-MEN," "WOLVERINE" OR FINALLY "X-MEN," MY FAVORITE TITLES. I JUST WANT TO ASK ONE THING: WHEN APOCALYPSE WILL RETURN (LIKE THE CHARACTER AND I MISS) HIM IN X-MEN TITLES. IN ULTIMATE X-MEN WHEN HE COMES BACK? SPECIALLY AFTER HOUSE OF M, AND MAYBE IN THE FUTURE, A ONSLAUGHT COME BACK?

SO IF YOU CAN ANSWER THIS 3 QUESTIONS I CAN DIE A HAPPY X-FAN. SORRY ABOUT MY ENGLISH.

REGARDS,
RENE AZEVEDO, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

Your English is a heckuva lot better than my Portuguese. Reno–although apparently Nicole's Portuguese is a heckuva lot better than her English…which explains how she became an Editor, what with Marvel's special Portuguese Publishing Program!

As you might have heard, even if tie-up communication is still the vogue down in Brazil, Apocalypse will be coming back in our very next issue! We don't know when Ultimate Apocalypse will come back, but does it really matter? Those books don't count. What was that, Nicole? Ultimate Deadpool is making his debut in ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN? Oh, in that case, the Ultimate books count plenty now! In fact, the entire Ultimate Universe will be playing a major role in Marvel's upcoming universe-shattering limited series, CIVIL WAR.[2]

Dear Deadpool,

Sweet Christmas! You got yourself a mighty entertaining funnybook here, I can tell you that! I had just about given up on Marvel with all the dissassembling and disassembling and Infinite Countdown to Infinite Cris…uh…that wasn't you guys, was it? Well, just suffice to say, I'm really enjoying CABLE & DEADPOOL and I just wanted to drop you a quick line to tell you so and ask a few obligatory comic geek questions. Here goes:

1. Do you hate robots? I hate robots. Do you hate robots?

2. Did you know that Purina makes Monkey Chow? What's Fabian's favorite?

3. That Ann Coulter reference in issue 22 was priceless. Okay, not "Department 56" or "Paintings of Kids with Really Big Eyes" or "Fireman Rescues Kittycat from a Tree" priceless, just…anyway, speaking of politics, since Nate is from the distant future, can he tell me if the US will ever adopt universal health insurance? Also, when can I expect to see G-Dub get his righteous smackdown from Hillary Clinton? I would also accept Hillary C. Herself–both would be sexy in their way. Did you know that Ann Coulter is a robot? See #1.

5. Speaking of sexy, have you seen Bea Arthur's one-woman show? It's HILARIOUS–that woman has such a potty mouth! It's the CD now if you want to check it out, but I wouldn't recommend trying her recipe for lamb. It's not very good. I suppose if I hadn't substituted tofurkey.

4. Fabian?? Is that his REAL name? Does he have a pompadour?

OK. Well, time's up and I have to get back to the recreation room. If you're late, all the really good jigsaw puzzles are taken, and I really hate to get stuck with that one of the gumballs—it's just too darned hard.

See you soon. I hope Santa is good to you.

Regards,
Rick Griffith, St. Paul, MN

You lost me with the word "suffice," Rick, which I consider a completely inappropriate word to use in a family comic book, but then you recovered with your numbered questions (which I like very much).

1. I hate robots. Except for robots of the B.A.D. Girls, like Ilse then bots.

2. I like 'em just fine with a tall glass of cold milk. Crunchy, like Chex Mix.

3. Ann Coulter getting a smackdown from Hilary Duff. Be still my heart.

5. Hey, wait a second–you went out of order and thought I wouldn't catch it, Suckah! Ooooh… Bea Arthur, live on stage? Her dulcet tones on CD? I need some time alone…

4. It is his real name, you provincial hick. He was born in another country whose language is not derived from a rigid Anglo-Saxon foundation, which gives him more of a world view than anyone from St. Paul could hope to have (although I do like your Beer Girls a lot). He is also bald as a cucumber, which explains why he is no longer allowed to write big Marvel Universe changing storylines like CIVIL WAR anymore…

Dear DP,

Commcast?!? Bwah, ha, ha, ha…The guy Weasel killed nearly a decade ago…ha, ha, ha. That is pure genius. I can imagine the dead villains team-up meeting:

Graviton: "Hi, I'm Graviton and I was killed by the G.I.A."

Commcast/Black Box: "Hi, I'm Commcast and I was killed by Weasel."

Graviton: "Weasel? Is he one of Squirrel Girl's teammates?"

Seriously though, "Bosom Buddies" was a great arc and Fabian has an excellent way of bringing back second-string characters. I can't wait to see if the (serpently) B.A.D. Girls pop up again in the MU; after all this is the title that helped relaunch Silver Surfer's (ANNIHILATION), Siryn's (X-FACTOR) and Cannonball's (UNCANNY X-MEN) careers!!!

However, who's Dave Ross? I noticed his name alongside Patrick's in the credits–a penicller each between Cable and Deadpool? Or has Cable finally gone too far and demanded his own hair stylist penicller? Either way the art was still very cool, and Deadpool vs Makeshift / Five wuz amazingly Maximum Cloneage (which I liked).

As always, keep up the brilliant work and Make Mine Marvel,

Gary Pickup, Salford, UK

Dave Ross is and always has been an excellent comics artist having worked on a wide variety of titles for Marvel, DC and other companies. Check out his art in Thunderbolts #101, but not in CIVIL WAR, which is being drawn by Steve McNiven.

Interesting note you made about how everyone who appears in CDP ends up using our enormous popularity as a springboard for new gigs. You're absolutely right. Lame modes like Spider-Man and Captain America will probably get their own hooks now, too, after trying so hard for so many years. I made Spidey look so good, he'll probably end up getting like, I don't know, night monthly books or something…

The two-part prequel to the X-Men's Blood of Apocalypse storyline! Wild guess, I'm figuring it involves Apocalypse. And blood.

[1]That's a lie.
[2]All lies.
[3]That last bit isn't true, but Ultimate Deadpool WILL appear in ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN 93, on sale in April. Read it!

-Nicole

THE TWO-PART PREQUEL TO THE X-MEN'S BLOOD OF APOCALYPSE STORYLINE! WILD GUESS, I'M FIGURING IT INVOLVES APOCALYPSE. AND BLOOD.

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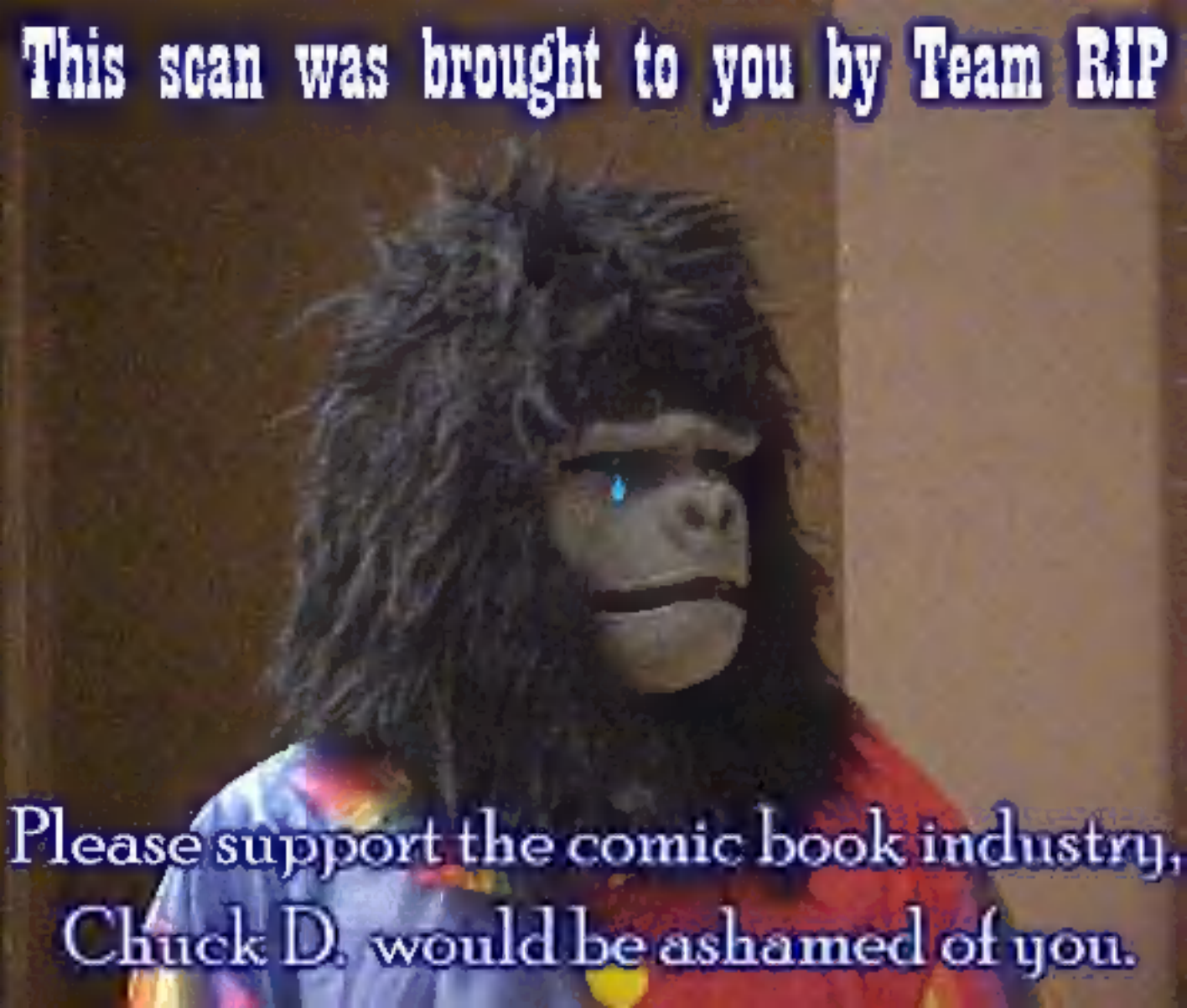
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